

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 /085 W  
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R 311010Z AUG 77  
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AMEMBASSY BONN  
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AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER  
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USNMR SHAPE BEL

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 2302

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC USCINCEUR FOR POLAD USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, CY  
SUBJECT: ELECTION OF ARCHBISHOP: CHRYSOSTOMOS' BANDWAGON  
ACCELERATES

REF: NICOSIA 2262 (DTG 261620Z AUG 77)

1. CAMPAIGN TO ELECT LOCUM TENENS CHRYSOSTOMOS AS ARCHBISHOP  
GAINED CONSIDERABLE MOMENTUM AUG 30 WITH ANNOUNCEMENT OF  
FORMATION OF PAN-CYPRIAN COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT HIM. COMMITTEE  
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COMPRISES LONG LIST OF POLITICAL AND BUSINESS LEADERS FROM  
LEFT, RIGHT, AND CENTER. AMONG MORE NOTABLE ARE ANDREAS AZINAS,  
COMMISSIONER OF GREEK COOPERATIVES; PASCALIS PASCALIDES,  
HEAD OF HELLENIC MINES; ANDREAS YIANGOU, HEAD OF  
FARMERS UNION; HEADS OF COMMUNIST AKEL YOUTH AND LABOR  
ORGANIZATIONS, ACTING PRESIDENT OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
ALEKOS MICHAELIDES; AND MAYORS OF SIX OF THE SEVEN PRINCIPAL

TOWNS IN CYPRUS. TO THIS IMPRESSIVE LIST OF INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS MUST BE ADDED INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT ALREADY PROMISED BY SUCH MASS ORGANIZATIONS AS THE THREE COOPERATING POLITICAL PARTIES, THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT, THE FARMERS UNION, THE COMMUNIST TRADE UNION MOVEMENT, THE TEACHERS' ORGANIZATION, AND THE ORGANIZATION OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN.

2. PREVIOUSLY, ON AUG 28, CHRYSOSTOMOS HAD GIVEN INTERVIEW TO DAILY PAPER AGHON OUTLINING HIS CONCEPTION OF THE ROLE OF ARCHBISHOP. HE DISAVOWED ANY POLITICAL AMBITIONS BUT WENT ON TO SAY THAT CHURCH AND PEOPLE WERE IDENTICAL AND HEAD OF THE CHURCH MUST WORK SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE PEOPLE. HE SAID AN ARCHBISHOP COULD NOT REMAIN INDIFFERENT TO PROBLEMS OF THE PEOPLE, WHETHER SPIRITUAL, NATIONAL, POLITICAL, OR MATERIAL. HE SAID HE WAS CONCERNED WITH RIGHTS, PROSPERITY AND PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE IN EVERY RESPECT AND WOULD BACK WITH ALL HIS POWERS THE GOVERNMENT WHICH SOUGHT THEIR IMPLEMENTATION. HE CALLED FOR THE ARCHBISHOP TO HAVE A SEAT IN THE NATIONAL COUNCIL, WHICH ADVISES THE PRESIDENT, TO SUPPORT THE ELECTED GOVERNMENT AND TO STAND AS A SYMBOL OF THE PEOPLE IN THE COMMON STRUGGLE.

3. COMMENT: SEVERAL FACTORS ACCOUNT FOR REMARKABLE STRONG AND DIVERSE SUPPORT BEING GIVEN TO CHRYSOSTOMOS. HE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF HIS POSITION AS ACTING ARCHBISHOP TO SEIZE  
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EARLY LEAD, WORKED A DEAL WITH THREE COOPERATING POLITICAL PARTIES TO PROJECT HIMSELF AS UNITY CANDIDATE, AND BUILT BANDWAGON ONTO WHICH EVERYBODY NOW WANTS TO JUMP, OR AT LEAST AVOID BEING RUN DOWN BY. WE SUSPECT THAT PASCALIDES, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS NO GREAT DESIRE TO SEE CHRYSOSTOMOS ELECTED, BUT AGAINST THIS HE MUST WEIGH THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE LOCUM TENENS WILL BE ELECTED AND BECOME HIS NEW BOSS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF BUSINESS ENTERPRISES CONTROLLED BY THE ARCHBISHOP. EVEN DEMOCRATIC RALLY PARTY OF CLERIDES, WHICH IN ITS HEART WOULD PREFER ELECTION OF CHRYSANTHOS, APPEARS TO HAVE BOWED TO INEVITABLE; IT ISSUED RATHER VAPID STATEMENT AUG 27 TO EFFECT IT WOULD PREFER THAT POLITICS BE KEPT OUT OF CHURCH ELECTIONS BUT THAT IT WOULD COOPERATE WITH WHOMEVER WAS CHOSEN AS ARCHBISHOP. ALTHOUGH IN THEORY THE THREE-STEP ELECTORAL PROCESS IS SUPPOSED TO INSULATE AGAINST FACTIONAL MANEUVERING AND PERMIT ELECTORS TO VOTE THEIR CONSCIENCE AS INSPIRED BY GOD IN THE FINAL BALLOT, IT APPEARS THAT CHRYSOSTOMOS IS PRACTICALLY, IF NOT DIVINELY, PRE-ORDAINED WINNER.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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